

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social Sciences and Humanities

Dauda Abubakar, associate professor of Africana studies, with tenure, and associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of Africana studies, with tenure, and professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1986	University of Wisconsin-Madison, Political Science, Madison WI
M.A.	1981	University of Wisconsin-Madison, Political Science, Madison, WI
B.S.	1978	Ahmadu Bello University, Political Science, Samaru-Zaria, Nigeria

Professional Record:

2015-Present	Associate Professor, Africana Studies and Political Science, University of Michigan-Flint
2010-2014	Assistant Professor, Africana Studies and Political Science, University of Michigan-Flint
2003-2009	Visiting Assistant Professor, Africana Studies and Political Science, Ohio University, OH

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Abubakar has taught seven courses since his promotion to associate professor in 2015, including: a first-year experience course (UNV 100: Never Again? Holocaust and Genocide), Introduction to Comparative Politics (POL 190), Middle East Politics (POL 347), Black Social and Political Movements (AFA/POL 304), Africa in Global Politics (AFS 130), Human Rights in Africa (AFA 333), and US Foreign Policies Towards Africa (AFA 351). He has continued to develop new courses and delivery formats and to demonstrate pedagogical growth in his courses since his initial promotion. His approaches to teaching have spanned face-to-face and online modalities, even prior to the pandemic. Professor Abubakar seeks to utilize the classroom environment, more specifically, interactions with the professor and peers, to promote “discovery of knowledge and prepare students for success in College, and beyond” while he “deepens their perspective in realizing the critical significance of social, economic, and political interdependence; and their role as individual citizens within a democracy.” His peer committee describes him as a “skilled instructor who delivers exceptional lectures and cares about his students.” He has availed himself of pedagogical resources, particularly in online learning modalities (having attended four workshops in the past three years), and he has utilized the Office of Online and Digital Education’s Media Studio to produce engaging online lectures using lightboard technologies. He utilizes small group projects, in-class discussions, and relevant field trips to encourage engagement with course materials. Student evaluations suggest that Professor Abubakar is successful in his efforts, with the average score on “Overall, this was

an excellent course” of 4.12 on a 5-point scale and an average score of 4.24 out of 5 on the question, “Overall, the instructor was an excellent teacher,” over the past six years. Students in his Winter 2020 course on US Foreign Policies Towards Africa commented, “The lectures the instructor posted were the best informational lectures I have seen” and “his lecture videos really helped me better understand what I was reading from the journal articles.” Nevertheless, Professor Abubakar is delivering quality instruction and learning experiences for his students.

Professor Abubakar has consistently and positively contributed to program development in the Africana Studies and Political Science programs. He has completed the six-hour Foundations of Academic Advising Workshop and has attended numerous “Fridays for Success” sessions to enhance his skills as an advisor. He has also coordinated and compiled the Africana studies department academic assessment reports for several years and has called the meetings where faculty come together to evaluate the quality of student learning and identify areas for improvement. He also supervised an independent study student in 2020.

Professor Abubakar is a caring and knowledgeable teacher who offers challenging instruction to students, and who is dedicated to their learning as well as ongoing pedagogical development. He has shown excellence in teaching through curriculum development in two programs, the honing of his online skills, and higher-than-average student evaluation of teaching scores over the past six years. While he can and likely will continue to improve his teaching and impact on students, particularly in lower-level courses, he currently meets the standards for promotion to professor with tenure in the area of teaching effectiveness.

Research: Professor Abubakar is an interdisciplinary scholar whose work lies at the intersection of comparative politics and international relations. He described four inter-related research areas: first, the intersectionality of identity politics, citizenship and democratization, especially in post-colonial Africa; second, the challenges of humanitarian intervention and its unintended consequences; third, US policy of war against terror in Sub-Saharan Africa and its ramifications for regional security; and fourth, the nexus of violent non-state actors, religious identity formation, resource availability and the processes of nation-building/development in Africa. Since his last promotion, Professor Abubakar has published a co-edited book and eight peer-reviewed book chapters, including several in very reputable presses including, Routledge, Lexington, and Palgrave Macmillan. He is also an active presenter at domestic and international professional conferences, having made seven presentations since his promotion to associate professor in 2015. He has also completed two book reviews.

Professor Abubakar’s future research agenda includes a book entitled The Paradox of Humanitarian Intervention in Africa for which he has already drafted an introductory chapter and is conducting research for the remaining chapters. He also has two journal articles under review at *Third World Quarterly* and *Politics, Religion, and Ideology*.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

“Conceptualizing Rural banditry, Identity Crisis and Security in Africa,” in Tar, U. A. et. al (eds). Rural Violence in Contemporary Africa. London/New York, NY: Routledge Publishers. 2020

“Conceptualizing Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Africa,” with Shardam Wapmuck, in Tar, U. A. and Bashir Bala (eds) New Architecture of Regional Security in Africa: Perspectives on Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 2020

Catherine Varin & Dauda Abubakar (eds). Violent Non-State Actors in Africa: Terrorists, Rebels and Warlords. New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2017.

Service: Professor Abubakar has amassed an extensive and productive record of service and leadership spanning his department, the college and university, and to a lesser extent, his profession. Noteworthy, among his many well documented contributions at the university are his prior four-year term as a chairperson of the Department of Africana Studies, his service on the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (one year), the Scholarships, Awards, and Special Event Committee (three years as co-chair), a provost search committee, and on both the UM-Flint and CAS Strategic Planning Committees. He also served on the General Education Curriculum Coordinating Committee (two years) and is currently in his 2nd year as the chair of the CAS Curriculum Committee. He is also a member of the CAS Strategic Plan Implementation Committee on Advising and Retention (third year) and is currently the inaugural chair of the newly created Department of Social Sciences and Humanities.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Through this body of work Dr. Abubakar contributes significantly not only to the literature and knowledge on the internal and external variables that impact the processes of democratic transition in multicultural societies; but even most importantly he extends the frontiers of scholarly investigations by reminding us about the central role of history; regime and leadership type; and the techniques of power in African politics.”

Reviewer B: “I am struck by the sophisticated theoretical framework Prof. Abubakar employs and how effectively he fleshes it out with significant high-quality empirical work.”

Reviewer C: “The breadth of his knowledge of the African continent, both in terms of the experiences of different countries and in terms of topics, is truly impressive.”

Reviewer D: “I am impressed by the sophisticated level of his problem definition, the effectiveness of his theoretical conceptualization, and the intensity of his analytical rigor that makes use of detailed historical nuance to explicate complex social problems related to political violence and extremist terrorism. His research findings have significant relevance not just in the academy, but they also have practical and direct policy application in the realms of national and international security and development.”

Reviewer E: “A/Prof Abubakar’s work on R2P (Responsibility to Protect) is, in my opinion, among the best world-wide, and I have consistently recommended his work to graduate students I interact with.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Abubakar is a traditional, passionate, and effective teacher who has worked to adapt his in-person teaching methods to fully online and engaging methods. He is producing quality scholarship and advancing knowledge on an increasing range of important issues within the fields of African studies, political science, and international security. He also has an outstanding record of impactful service to his department, college, and university. It is with support of the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee that I recommend Dauda Abubakar for promotion to professor of Africana studies, with tenure, and professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:



Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Debasish Dutta, Chancellor
University of Michigan – Flint

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